

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Last week I was fortunate enough to attend the 2014 National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE) in Atlanta, GA, to spread the word about the [Veterans Employment Center](#) (VEC). I met many of you, and some of you attended the presentation I gave talking about Veteran employment. It was a great experience to have the opportunity to meet so many Veteran small business owners and speak with them about how they can use the VEC to find and hire skilled experienced Veterans who fit their needs.

I have three asks from all of you.

1. **Learn about the Veterans Employment Center** – the first government-wide project that brings together a reputable cadre of public and private employers with real job opportunities, provides tools to translate military skills into plain language and build a profile that can be shared – in real time – with employers.
  - a. [http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/presentations/nvsbe\\_presentation.pdf](http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/presentations/nvsbe_presentation.pdf); a copy of the PowerPoint presentation FYI,
  - b. [www.ebenefits.va.gov/jobs](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/jobs); Visit the VEC,
  - c. <http://bit.ly/VECEmployer>; a brief video for employers,
  - d. <http://bit.ly/VECJobSeeker>; a brief video for Veteran job seekers
2. **Register on the VEC** – You can quickly begin to leverage the VEC by searching for qualified Veterans and access all of the tools,
3. **Make an Employer Commitment on the VEC** – Launch your public relations campaign to hire Veterans..

America has invested much in our Veterans - they are part of the most highly trained and skilled force the world has ever known. I cannot overstate the value and impact of Veterans as employees. There are multiple sectors in America's economy that need qualified candidates like them. To that end, the U.S. Department of Labor announced this week that \$100 million in grants are available to expand registered apprenticeship programs in high-growth industries (funding applications must be submitted by April 30, 2015). The Funding Opportunity Announcement, which includes information on eligibility and how to apply, is available at <http://www.grants.gov/>. Veterans are the ideal group to take advantage of these apprenticeships and help employers make their businesses successful for the long term. VA is working toward including these apprenticeship opportunities on the VEC to increase awareness and streamline application processes for transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families.

The VEC is an excellent resource for employers seeking Veteran talent. To reiterate, the VEC, employers can:

- Make a public commitment to hire Veterans
- Post job opportunities
- Search resumes to quickly identify the right candidates

- Download tools like the Guide to Hiring Veterans to learn how to find and hire Veterans and support their success in the workplace

We are receiving exponential employer registrations and public hiring commitments every month, but we need more and I would like your help in continuing to grow these registrations and commitments. Visit the Veterans Employment Center to create your profile, make a commitment to hire Veterans today, and find your next team member today.

Thank you for your service.

V/R

Curtis L. Coy  
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence ("I CARE")**

**Please Remember:**

- If you would like to review prior messages sent through this listserv, click [http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic\\_opportunity.htm](http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic_opportunity.htm).
- If you would like to research, find, access, and, in time, manage your VA benefits and personal information please visit and/or register at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>.
- If you looking for a job or an employer committed to hiring Veterans, please register on the Veterans Employment Center (VEC) at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>
- If you are seeking employment in the federal government, particularly the VA, our VA for Vets high-tech tools and resources can help. Visit online at <http://vaforvets.va.gov/Pages/default.asp> or call 1-855-824-8387.

If you would like to contact us about your VA education benefits:

You can send us a secure email that will usually be answered within 48 hours. You can also search for answers to frequently asked questions and register to be notified of any updates to the information. This contact method is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can also be utilized worldwide. Click here to enter the "Ask A Question" site or here to review our frequently asked questions.

You can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). This line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM central time Monday – Friday.

